

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 772

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 0321

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EIND, EMIN, SL

SUBJECT: SIERRA RUTILE: IMPROVED OUTLOOK FOR GOSL-BETHSTEEL

NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. FREETOWN 314 B. FREETOWN 122

1. FOLLOWING ENCOURAGING CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT STEVENS ON PROSPECTS FOR SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION GOSL-BETHSTEEL NEGOTIATIONS ON SIERRA RUTILE LTD (SRL) PROJECT (REF A), I MET FEB 18 WITH SRL RESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT DAVID FRASER. FRASER AGREED OUTLOOK RECENTLY MUCH IMPROVED AND HE NOW MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC. FRASER SAID THERE HAS BEEN MARKED SHIFT IN ATTITUDE IN PAST TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS BY MINISTER MINES KAWUSU-KONTE AND SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOWARD MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON KEY ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.

2. FRASER SAID A DELEGATION FROM BETHSTEEL ARRIVING FREETOWN FEB 19. IN ABSENCE OF BOTH PRESIDENT (IN EUROPE) AND KAWUSU-KONTE (IN GAMBIA), FRASER DID NOT EXPECT RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION ISSUE DURING THIS VISIT BUT HOPED WAY COULD BE CLEARED FOR AGREEMENT DURING SUBSEQUENT BETHSTEEL VISIT IN MARCH.

3. I PLAN TO MEET WITH BETHSTEEL DELEGATION FEB 21 AT CLOSE OF THEIR VISIT TO ASSESS THEIR VIEWS ON OUTLOOK FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

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